

The testimony of Dame Remembrance is amply confirmed by John the Commonweal:—

" For thare is few to me that takis tent, That gars me go so raggit, reivin, and rent."

John is a homeless wanderer, and wherever he goes, whether in the Lowlands or the Highlands, "polycie" or government is at a discount. Everywhere murder, robbery,* poverty, strife. John lays his complaint before the spiritual estate, but these dumb dogs of prelates will not listen, and look at him in disdain. Simony, covetousness, pride, sensuality, have no ear for the common ills of the land. The gentlemen, too, are all degenerate, and, thwarted, insulted, despised on all hands, John Commonweal vanishes from the land. When, queries the poet, will ye come again ?

^{cc} Quod he, thare sail na Scot have
comfortyng Of me, till that I see the
country gydit Be wysedome of an
gude auld prudent kyng, Ouhilk sail
delyte him maist above all thyng To
put justice tyll executioun, And on
strang traitouris mak punitiou."

But while eager to welcome the advent of " a gude auld king," he is the sworn foe of any *regime* founded on force, of tyrants and egoists in high places. The only legitimate government he will recognise is that which exists for the good of the people. His king is by no means an absolute potentate, whose will is law. In the "Satire" it is the Estates, especially the temporal lords and the commons, that take in hand the work of reform, that make laws to remedy mis-government and oppression. He is no lover of monarchy for its own sake, to judge from the description, given in the "Dialogue," of the four principal monarchies of history—those of Assyria, Persia, Greece, and Rome. The best he can say of them is that they were instruments of the wrath of God, who worked His punitive will through them, and then sent them (the pope among the rest) to perdition. He hates the wars of kings as the devices of ambitious potentates to serve their own glory and ruin the nations, and in this respect we discern the note of the modern reaction from the mediaeval spirit that deified war under the pseudonym of chivalry.

The religious views of Lyndsay are clearly those of a man